

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 11-13, and 15-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended. Claims 6-9 and 14 have been cancelled. Claims 23-30 are new. The support of the amendment and new claims is in FIG. 4-7 and paragraphs [0048]-[0049] and [0055]-[0056]. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the arguments below.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C §§102-103

On page 2, the Office Action indicates that Claims 1-4, 8, 11-15, and 18-22 are rejected under either 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Demeritt (US 5,274,502) or 35 U.S.C §103(a) as obvious over Demeritt (US 5,274,502) in view of Tanabe (Japanese Patent Publication JP05-066302). On page 8, the Office Action indicates that Claims 6, 7, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Demeritt (US 5,274,502) in view of Tanabe (Japanese Patent Publication JP05-066302) and further in view of Neid (US 5,290,333). On page 9, the Office Action indicates that Claims 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Demeritt (US 5,274,502) in view of Tanabe (Japanese Patent Publication JP05-066302).

Independent claims 1 and 20 recite a method for making a holder/optical-element assembly, comprising a step of "the void part is composed of a plurality of micro-pores which are serially connected and formed on a region extending outward in a radial direction from the inner circumferential surface of the cylindrical holder material." The cited prior arts do not teach or suggest at least this limitation.

Demeritt fails to disclose this limitation. Demeritt discloses a method for making a sealed precision optical assembly (col. 3, lines 48-50). Further, Demeritt admits FIGS. 2-4 disclose some of the possible configurations for the metal support, including ring support 22 in FIG. 22, open cup support 28 in FIG. 3 and tubular support 30 in FIG. 4 (col. 11, lines 26-29). FIG. 3 shows a tubular support 30 instead of holder with void part without micro-pores. Demeritt does not disclose that the void part is composed of a plurality of micro-pores which are serially connected. Therefore, claims 1 and 20 are allowable over Demeritt.

Tanabe fails to disclose this limitation. Tanabe discloses a method to fix a guide member without using any adhesive. Tanabe discloses the volume of the recessed part 3 are so adjusted that the lens material flows to the recessed part 3 and does not overflow. However, Tanabe is silent on that the recessed part 3 is composed of a plurality of micro-pores serially connected. Therefore, Tanabe fails to teach that the void part is composed of a plurality of micro-pores which are serially connected. Claims 1 and 20 are allowable for at least this reason over Tanabe.

Neid fails to disclose this limitation. Neid discloses a porous layer 18 assisting the flowing of the layer 24 and serving as a cushion or shock absorber structure (col. 5, lines 49-51 and col. 6, lines 54-55). However, the porous layer 18 is a porous surface formed by individually isolated pores (FIG. 1). Further, the porous layer is formed in the surface of the flat ceramic substrate 14. Neid does not disclose that the void part is composed of a plurality of micro-pores which are serially connected and formed on a region extending outward in a radial direction. Claims 1 and 20 are allowable for at least this reason over Neid.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims 1 and 20 are allowable over the cited references.

Dependent claims 2-4, 11-13, and 21-30 depend from allowable claims 1 or 20, so are allowable for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the arguments presented herein are sufficient to overcome the several rejections. Accordingly, allowance of all the Claims is respectfully requested. Should the examiner deem a telephone conference to be of assistance in advancing the application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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